

Métis Nation British Columbia

Climate Change Priority Paper

2025

*Ministry of Environment, Climate Change,
and Food Security*



MÉTIS NATION
BRITISH COLUMBIA





Front Cover, Figure 1:
"Blueberries, Mountains, and Balance"
Janna Wale

Acknowledgements

Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) recognizes that First Nations hold Aboriginal title to these lands colonially known as British Columbia. MNBC's assertion of our constitutional Section 35 rights should not be misconstrued as claiming Aboriginal title in British Columbia. MNBC is committed to acknowledging, upholding, and respecting First Nations' inherent rights that have existed since time immemorial, and to their constitutionally protected treaty rights. The assertion of our right to self-government is not intended to claim any Aboriginal title in British Columbia.¹

This report would not be possible without the contributions of MNBC citizens, who lean on the teachings of their ancestors to guide climate change work forward in a good way. We acknowledge and honour the time and knowledge given by Métis citizens. Maarsii (thank you)!

In the honour and uplifting of Métis teachings, we have highlighted artwork from young Métis artists throughout the report to evoke an emotional and personal connection to the environment and serve as a spiritual guide to bring people back to being caretakers for mother nature. Artists as young as eight years old are seeing the dramatic changes to the environment. Métis see a resilient future, but one that requires urgent action, and a strong

"We can honour the wisdom of our ancestors by caring for the environment. When we prepare for climate change, we can move forward and build a future where all our relations can thrive."

– MNBC MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT
AND CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSIE HOOPER

"My people will sleep for one hundred years, but when they awake, it will be the artists who give them their spirit back."

– BY ORAL TRADITION ATTRIBUTED TO LOUIS RIEL,
MÉTIS LEADER (1844-1885)

"Climate leaders are advocates, both for new and time-tested solutions, and are people who have the humility to listen to the land, to community, and to what they know is right."

– ARTIST JANNA WALE

"Changes need to be implemented in order to protect our lands and waters and the living creatures that rely on them."

– ARTIST JET ROBERTSON, AGE 16

"Salmon are important to keep the water clean – don't throw garbage in it – because keeping salmon healthy keeps the bears healthy."

– ARTIST EVAN BEATTIE, AGE 8

¹ Métis Nation British Columbia, "Métis Nation British Columbia Acknowledges, Upholds, and Respects First Nations' Inherent Rights, Title, and Treaty Rights," News Release, May 30, 2023, <https://www.mnbc.ca/news/metis-nation-british-columbia-acknowledges-upholds-and-respects-first-nations-inherent-rights>.



relationship to the land. Maarsii to the artists who contributed to this report and provide hope for a better future. In addition to celebrating and honouring the work of young Métis, we also acknowledge the wisdom provided by Métis Elders to climate work. It is often Elders and knowledge keepers who keep culture alive, reminding us of the importance of how the land takes care of us when we take care of it. In remembering the teaching of the Seven Generations, we must look back and look forward in this work.

We also acknowledge the good work that has been accomplished in partnership with Canada-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) as we continue to work together in Indigenous Climate Leadership. This paper and many of the actions in it, would not be possible without their support. Gratitude to Darcy Senger for her graphic design work on this report. It is through respectful collaboration that we can continue to mend our relationship with the land and all our relations.

"The ground we came from will always be the lingering hope we all hold onto, not only to relish in the beauty that is our environment; I find hope in her brutal resilience."

– ARTIST MADELINE LUCIER, AGE 22

"I am building a connection and better understanding each day of this beautiful place we call earth, and I have a strong sense to help fight against climate change. Either expressing through my art or building a sustainable life, I hope to make a difference so some day I can enjoy the lands and waters like how my ancestors did."

– ARTIST ISABELLE JARMAN, AGE 22

"Stewardship of the land is key to fighting climate change"

– ELDER DENISE MCCUAIG,

'LIFESTYLE AS MEDICINE' REPORT, 2022

"Without the land, we have nothing."

– ***'LIFESTYLE AS MEDICINE' REPORT, 2022***

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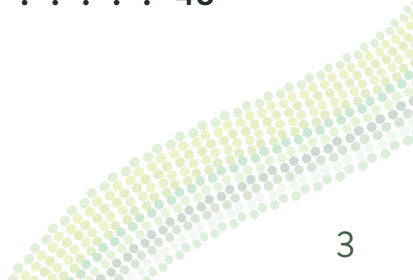
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List of Abbreviations

BCMANR
British Columbia Métis Assembly of Natural
Resources

CIRNAC
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
Canada

ECCC
Environment Climate Change Canada

EDMA
Emergency and Disaster Management Act

EM
Emergency Management

EMCR
BC Ministry of Emergency Management and
Climate Readiness

ESS
Emergency Support Services

HEMBC
Health Emergency Management BC

ICE
Indigenous Clean Energy

ILABC
Indigenous-led Area-Based Conservation

MCC
Métis Chartered Communities

MIRR
BC Ministry of Indigenous Relations and
Reconciliation

MNBC
Métis Nation British Columbia

MNC
Métis National Council

MNCS
Métis Nation Climate Strategy

MN-S
Métis Nation Saskatchewan

NRC_{Can}
Natural Resources Canada

STEPS
Skills Training, Employment & Post Secondary

UNDA
United Nations Declaration Act



Introduction

WHO WE ARE

Métis Nation British Columbia represents the section 35 rights of approximately 30,000 Métis Citizens who are registered with MNBC and advocates for the over 113,000 self-identified Métis in British Columbia. MNBC represents thirty-nine (39) Métis Chartered Communities in British Columbia. MNBC's mandate is to develop and enhance opportunities for Métis communities by implementing culturally relevant social and economic programs and services. MNBC is recognized by the Government of British Columbia, and the Government of Canada. MNBC is the government for Métis in BC.

MNBC's Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, and Food Security (hereafter referred to as "the Ministry") fosters connections between the natural landscape and Métis in British Columbia. The Ministry engages in activities at international, federal, provincial, regional, and local levels to support Métis environmental and climate change needs and concerns. The Ministry supports Métis connection with culture, community, and the land.

The Ministry is mandated to advance research, advocacy, and programs to help connect Métis citizens to the natural environment in British Columbia. This is done through centering and empowering Métis voices and values in matters

related to climate change, conservation, and food security. These efforts honour the connections between Métis citizens and all our relations so we may strive for a healthy and thriving planet for

WHO ARE THE MÉTIS?

The Métis emerged through the fur trade in the historic Northwest during the 18th century, pre-dating Canada. Indigenous women and European fur traders created distinct communities along the fur-trading routes that span the Métis Nation Homeland.

*The Métis suffered massive dispossession of their land and way of life during Euro-Canadian settlement. Subsequently, Métis have struggled for recognition of their distinct identity, including their arts and the Michif language, which have been vital to sustaining their culture.*²

In 1982, the Métis were legally recognized as one of Canada's three Aboriginal peoples, along with the First Nations and Inuit, with rights under Section 35 of Canada's Constitution. Métis means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is distinct from other Indigenous Peoples, is of historic Métis Nation ancestry, and who is accepted by the Métis Nation.

² Wall text, *Indigenous Perspectives, A Nation Reclaimed*, Canadian Museum for Human Rights, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

current and future generations. In addition, the Ministry endeavors to embody and exemplify the vision, mission, and cultural values of Métis Nation British Columbia (see [Appendix A](#)).

THIS PRIORITY PAPER

This paper serves as a living, guiding document for the Ministry as it relates to climate change activities and prioritized commitments. It also serves as a tool of accountability, to ensure that the Ministry continues to honour the needs of Métis.

The priorities outlined here are informed by Métis citizens so that the work remains rooted in Métis culture and ways of being and doing. The Ministry recognizes that Métis know what is best for their local communities. It is with this knowledge that the Ministry strives to connect Métis communities to climate change and emergency management initiatives through learning opportunities, knowledge sharing, programs, and more.

What Informs This Paper?

Developed over two years, [The Métis Nation Climate Strategy](#) (MNCS) was released in 2024, with input from MNBC leadership, staff, and community on the key issues regarding a changing climate and its effect on Métis in British Columbia.

The Métis Nation Climate Strategy includes five interconnected priority areas for action across the Métis Nation:

1. **Nature Stewardship**
2. **Sustainable Energy and Infrastructure**
3. **Emergency Management and Climate Resilience**
4. **Health and Well-Being**
5. **Economic Development and Prosperity**

Through the federal [Indigenous Climate Leadership](#) (ICL) initiative, we have worked closely with CIRNAC and ECCC to transform climate action work through a Nation-to-Nation, and government-to-government partnership as stated in [The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#) (UNDA) [Action Plan](#), and, in particular, Action 46.

*“Together with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis, advance an Indigenous Climate Leadership Agenda, including distinctions-based strategies, that vests the resources and authorities necessary for Indigenous peoples to fully exercise their right to self-determination on climate. This includes ensuring **that First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples have stable, long-term financing to implement their climate actions, make climate related decisions with the Government of Canada, and that systemic barriers to Indigenous climate leadership are addressed**” (UNDA Action Plan, Action 46, Page 36).*

This gold standard nation-to-nation co-development process “reflects the highest end of the consultation and cooperation spectrum and involves **Indigenous peoples and the Government of Canada working together in good faith through a substantive, collaborative, and consensus-based process to develop effective solutions** and advance UN Declaration implementation in a timely way” (UNDA Action Plan, Page 22).

Continuing the work of the ICL initiative, the MNCS informed the submission of the Métis Nation Climate Leadership Agenda – a



Memorandum to Cabinet in the fall of 2024 in preparation for Budget 2025. This 10-year funding ask was co-developed with staff from ECCC and CIRNAC in support of **Canada's United Nations Declaration Act** and in its **2023-2028 Action Plan**.

With the global climate crisis in mind, this Priority Paper builds upon the work of both The Métis Nation Climate Change Strategy and the Métis Nation Climate Leadership Agenda while serving as a more detailed roadmap toward protection of the environment and Métis communities in British Columbia.

This paper is created from what we've heard from community throughout the years, the work we are doing and have completed, and the urgent shifts that we will need to make. This requires Métis-specific solutions that adapt and respond to the changing climate in a holistic way, ensuring Métis citizens and communities are cared for on all fronts, including nature, renewable energy, emergency management, health, food security, and sustainable jobs. Our shared vision is a proactive solution that recognizes the interconnected impacts of climate change.

How This Paper is Organized

This paper focuses on the five priorities above and is organized as a realistic and actionable guide for MNBC's climate work. This paper is both an update on the Ministry's current and completed climate work, plus a highlighting of gaps and aspirational goals for what the Ministry needs to accomplish for Métis in BC to thrive in a changing climate and an uncertain future. As such, this paper continuously focuses on the following three broad climate actions, as identified by Métis citizens and MNBC staff in the Ministerial Values, Priorities, and Actions section:

- 1. Building Resilience:** Ensuring that resources and supports are in place for Métis to thrive in a changing climate.
- 2. Building Capacity:** Building up Métis peoples' ability to face the challenges and embrace the opportunities created by a changing climate.
- 3. Relationship Building:** Creating connections and partnerships that benefit Métis and all our relations.

The following sections of this report detail what we have done so far in increasing Resilience, Capacity, and Partnerships in the areas of:

1. **Nature Stewardship**
2. **Renewable Energy**
3. **Emergency Management**
4. **Health & Food**
5. **Sustainable Jobs & Prosperity**

The Ministry understands the interconnected impacts of climate change – for example, as nature deteriorates, our collective health is impacted as well. However, we know there is an interconnectedness between building resilience, capacity and relationships. Improving MNBC's ability to do climate work, for example, in nature stewardship will also mean a healthier future for Métis and other people in BC. As such, this paper shows a pathway forward for working together in supporting all facets of climate work, including uplifting Canada's international commitments on climate change while finding new opportunities for sustainable growth and opportunity for Métis in BC.

The next section discusses *why* the Ministry is pursuing this work, along with how the work is accomplished through good working relationships. The paper then moves into what the Ministry has learned through community engagements and describes the climate work already completed. Finally, the paper maps out an action plan for the above five priorities and future work based upon past learnings through research and engagement.

Why Climate Change?

Why pursue this work? The Ministry has continuously heard from Métis communities that climate change is a top concern, especially for those who live in areas that are experiencing intense climate disasters (i.e., wildfire, smoke, flooding, etc.) and increasing food insecurity.³ These compounding events affect Métis culture, livelihoods, health and well-being. The following examples demonstrate how Métis are impacted by climate change and environmental emergencies at regional and local levels:

DROUGHT

- ∞ In 2024, the Province of BC released a **provincial drought map**.⁴ The map provides areas where drought is occurring and the likelihood it may impact socio-economic conditions. In BC, current areas of high concern include Vancouver Island and the Northeast where Métis in urban, rural, and remote areas are impacted. Drought can impact food systems, affecting the availability and quantity of local farmed foods, fish and aquatic systems, and household usage. In times of high drought, some municipalities and regional districts restrict water usage, including watering lawns and gardens. For Métis, gardening and other food security activities contribute to their health and well-being.

³ Ministry research and reports provide evidence of Métis climate concerns, see: <https://www.mnbc.ca/work-programs/ministries/Environment-Climate-Change-Food-Security>

⁴ "BC Drought Information Portal." Accessed July 16, 2025. <https://droughtportal.gov.bc.ca/>

FIRE

- ∞ In 2023, the **McDougall Creek fire in Kelowna**⁵ – on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the syilx/Okanagan peoples – called for rapid evacuations as the fire jumped across waterways, causing widespread devastation. The fire also caused extensive smoke, affecting air quality in the region. During this time, local Métis Chartered Communities (MCCs) worked to support Métis in the area, leaning on MNBC for supports. The Ministry was able to provide emergency grants to MCCs, who distributed the funds as appropriate to citizens in need.
- ∞ The village of Lytton, traditional territory of the Nlaka’pamux people, faced hardship as **a fire**⁶ ravaged the town in June 2021. **A Métis citizen**,⁷ one with experience in handling emergencies, stepped up to help evacuees with pets find places to foster their furry loved ones. This was a necessary step as hotels often don’t allow pets. This act of kindness centred the health and well-being of both people and pets during a climate emergency.

causing mudslides, infrastructure damage (i.e., highway/building destruction), and economic disruptions. The event displaced thousands of people, including Métis in urban and rural areas. The flooding affected food chain supply, transportation, and health systems. Grants were administered by MNBC to aid local Métis during this event. Some Métis individuals are still experiencing post-disaster effects on their health and homes.⁹



Figure 2: “Ebb and Flow” Isabelle Jarman

FLOOD

- ∞ In November-December 2021, a series of atmospheric rivers **flooded the Fraser Valley region**,⁸ traditional territories of Coast Salish, Stó:lō, St’at’imc, and Nlaka’pamux Nations,

⁵ “Kelowna Declares State of Emergency after Wildfire Jumps Okanagan Lake, Prompting More Evacuations,” CBC News, August 17, 2023. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/what-you-need-to-know-about-bc-wildfires-aug-17-2023-1.6938796>.

⁶ Schmunk, Rhianna. “‘Most Homes’ in Lytton, B.C., Destroyed by Catastrophic Fire, Minister Says,” CBC News, July 1, 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/bc-wildfires-lytton-july-1-2021-1.6087311>.

⁷ Morgan Hampton, “Metis Society pres heads animal rescue during fires,” Merritt Herald, Sep 13, 2021, <https://www.merritherald.com/metis-society-pres-heads-animal-rescue-during-fires/>.

⁸ Schmunk, Rhianna. “B.C.’s Fraser Valley Is No Stranger to Floods. Experts Warn Extreme Weather Is Likely to Become More Common,” CBC News, November 17, 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/fraser-valley-flooding-climate-change-1.6251267>.

⁹ Verbal communication with Métis from the affected region, April 13, 2024.

Figure 3: "Vernon Forest Fires" Jet Robertson



Working Together

It is recognized that climate change can affect all aspects of life, therefore it is paramount that MNBC works together, across governments, to take action effectively. The rising concern of climate change has influenced international, national, provincial, regional and Indigenous governments. As a result, Canada and British Columbia have created research, policies, and programs that work to respond and adapt to a shifting climate.

Federally, Canada has developed several climate initiatives, including [*Net-Zero Emissions by 2050*](#) and the [*National Adaptation Strategy*](#). former legislation strives to hit net-zero emissions by 2050, with a 45% emissions reduction goal in 2030, while the latter legislation outlines the

guiding principles for building resilient communities amidst climate change.

Following the standards and goals set by the federal government, the government of British Columbia released the [*BC Climate Change and Adaptation Strategy*](#) and the [*CleanBC Roadmap to 2030*](#).

At this point in time, the Ministry does not receive funding from the province for its climate change or emergency management work, though, the Ministry has a good working relationship with Emergency Management Climate Readiness BC (EMCR). The Ministry has received some short-term provincial funding through the New Relationship Trust and Regional Health Authorities for food security projects, while working to secure longer term funding. The Ministry continues to work in good



faith and develop good working relationships with ministries within the provincial government.

With climate change increasing evacuations and emergencies across the province, it is important for the Ministry to help Métis prepare for these climate intense events, including advocating at political and technical levels for stronger climate mitigation and adaptation measures. The Ministry recognizes that MNBC does not play the role of first responder during climate disasters but has a role to play supporting citizens and working with various levels of government when emergencies and evacuations occur. This includes working together with partners such as ECCC, CIRNAC, and EMCR.

In the spirit of advancing Métis climate needs at a national level, the **2024 Métis Nation Climate Change Strategy** was formed as “an urgent roadmap and call to action,” with MNBC contributing as writers and editors of the strategy, ensuring that voices and concerns from Métis in BC were reflected throughout the document. The actions of the strategy align with national and international commitments to climate such as the 2015

Paris Agreement, the 2015 United Nations (UN) Sendai Framework, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and Canada’s 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan.

Following the release of the strategy, MNBC, Métis Nation-Alberta (now known as Otipemisiwak Métis Government), Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S), Métis Nation Ontario, and the Métis National Council (MNC) worked collaboratively with Canada’s Indigenous Climate Leadership team to co-develop the Métis Nation Climate Leadership Agenda, a 10-year funding proposal for submission to the federal Treasury Board in fall 2024. Approving this proposal would help the Métis Nation address the five priorities as laid out in the climate change strategy, with self-determination and flexible funding as focal points.

The narrative above describes the current environmental, legislative, and strategic landscape for climate action across the United Nations, Canada, British Columbia, and the Métis Nation. With this knowledge in hand, the Ministry works to involve Métis in climate action. The following section details the work of the Ministry that has led to the creation of this paper.

What We've Learned

Over the years, the Ministry held various engagements and surveys to understand Métis climate needs in BC. This section summarizes engagements hosted since 2020 as the COVID-19 pandemic drastically affected Métis lives and impacts the work the Ministry conducts today.

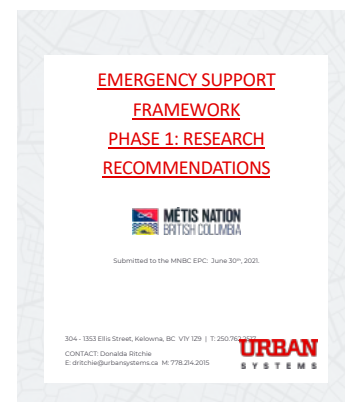
In February 2020, MNBC held a ***Climate Change and Mental Health Forum*** to gather insights from citizens about the observed impacts of climate change in various regions of British Columbia. Participants highlighted risks such as extreme temperatures, sea level rise, flooding, fires, invasive species, and vector-borne diseases. Ecosystem changes were reported as evident, with migration of species and pollinators, as well as the change in availability of seafoods, plants and medicines. These changes were impacting Métis ways of being, and the ability to be well physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

In January 2021, the Ministry held a workshop series titled ***Strengthening Our Resilience to Climate Change*** in partnership with Fraser Basin Council. MNBC provided information to participants about climate change programs, projects, and future impacts. Community members emphasized the importance of intergenerational learning, land stewardship, and reciprocal relationships for fostering a resilient future.

The ***Emergency Management Questionnaire***, introduced in 2021 and funded by Natural Resources Canada's (NRCan) Indigenous Advisory and Monitoring Committee, aimed to gather feedback from MNBC citizens on a variety of topics related to emergency preparedness, climate, and other pertinent issues, with the goal of enhancing MNBC's support for Métis communities in emergency preparedness planning and addressing regional priorities. Regional concerns were identified, which ranged from extreme storms and pandemics to missing persons, forest fires and earthquakes. Although many respondents had previous experience with emergency events, it was evident that personal preparedness was often lacking, highlighting the need for Métis citizens to take personal ownership for their own emergency preparedness.

By June 2021, the ***Emergency Support Framework Recommendation*** report was created to improve the MNBC governing body's systems in supporting MNBC Chartered Communities and

Figure 4: Emergency Support Framework Phase 1: Research Recommendations, MNBC, 2021



Métis citizens in emergency preparedness and readiness for future disasters. It was recommended that MNBC develop an organizational framework to assist in emergencies and prioritize the hiring of an Emergency Preparedness Manager.

In February 2022, the ***Métis Climate Resilience Gathering*** was held in partnership with the Province of British Columbia. This gathering explored themes of climate resilience with Métis citizens and sought to understand climate change from a Métis perspective. Topics discussed included the impact of climate change on food security, where issues emerged such as species decline in animals and plants, a change in animal migration patterns, and the ability for people to grow their own food. Participants also noted that emergency planning, through virtual support networks and collaboration with local authorities, is key to moving through an emergency. Mental health and cultural wellness were also identified as important, including grief and anxiety support, in the face of a changing climate.

In 2022, MNC published an Emergency Management Review in partnership with MNBC and other Métis Governments. The review provides an overview of emergency management (EM) through a federal lens, with particular focus on the supports, or lack thereof, that Métis receive regarding EM. It also describes the complexity and promise of delivering EM support for a Nation that is dispersed yet connected. Recommendations for better financial and capacity support from federal partners to Métis governments is urged so that EM can be prioritized in climate work.

In 2023, the Ministry published the ***Climate Change & Food Access Survey Report***.

The report details how the costs of buying, harvesting, and growing food had increased in the early years of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially for Métis living in rural and remote areas. It also noted the importance of harvesting for Métis well-being, and how Métis perceive emergency preparedness in their local communities. Climate change impacts on ecosystems and food sources were seen as requiring constant adaptive responses. In addition, the Ministry continues to receive feedback on the highly successful but oversubscribed Home Garden Program, which provides gardening supplies to Métis citizens. Ministry staff have learned from this program where to invest funding to address Métis food insecurity amid a changing climate.

In March 2024, the Ministry held a one-and-a-half-day workshop to engage Métis community members in defining Métis-specific priorities for climate change, food security, and biodiversity/conservation. Participants emphasized the importance of expanding local capacity and resilience, boosting support for Métis Chartered Communities to address local climate, emergency, and food needs. Knowledge sharing and education were also identified as key to supporting communities in their efforts adapting to climate change.

The Ministry's second annual engagement was held in March 2025 with Métis citizens across the province. Staff sought input from Métis participants on low carbon, Indigenous-Led Area-Based Conservation (ILABC), pollinators, building efficiency and residential renewable energy programs, and emergency management and preparedness. In summary, citizens asked MNBC for support on accessing low carbon and energy efficient technologies as current programs are administratively confusing and



Figure 5: MNBC Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, and Food Security 'Environment Workshop', March 2024

costly. In addition, participants stated an ILABC should be governed by Indigenous peoples and should serve to mend and (re)connect Métis back to the land. Participants also requested more emergency management training opportunities and local capacity building, with an emphasis on involving Métis youth.

In the spring of 2025, the **Emergency Management Needs Assessment Survey** gathered feedback from MNBC citizens on a variety of topics related to emergency preparedness, response, evacuation experiences and training. This survey identified a strong desire amongst citizens to take on a more active role in personal and community emergency preparedness, and a further desire to take part in emergency management training programs. These desired programs would build capacity not only for

individual citizens but for communities as well, creating a more resilient population.

In the spring of 2025, the **Sîpihkisôwin (Resilience): Low Carbon Energy Program Survey** was distributed to help guide the future direction of implementing low-carbon technologies in Métis communities in BC. Survey participants were asked about the energy challenges they are experiencing in their homes and communities, what would make them more willing to opt for low carbon upgrades, whether they have accessed rebates in the past, and the kinds of technologies they are most interested in. While cost was stated as the biggest barrier to accessing low carbon technologies, only a fraction of individuals had managed to access provincial or federal rebate programs in the past. Many survey participants expressed an interest in a variety of



low carbon energy and energy efficiency home upgrades, including solar panels, heat pumps, and energy efficient doors and windows.

Throughout all the engagements conducted over the last five years, Métis observed and felt the direct impacts of the shifting climate including warmer temperatures, dry summers, less water, increasing storms, winds, unpredictable precipitation, flooding, wildfires, and rising sea levels. Métis also expressed sentiments on how MNBC can support community, including:

- ∞ Facilitate knowledge transmission and continuity, focusing on knowledge translation between Elders and Youth.
- ∞ Continued MNBC advocacy for Métis climate needs at federal and provincial levels.
- ∞ Wholistic and relational approach to climate solutions.

- ∞ Increase local community capacity through knowledge and education.
- ∞ Continued care for the land, while adapting to its changes through innovative solutions like clean energy transitions.

The Ministry is using the valuable insights given by MNBC citizens to set goals aimed at providing tangible solutions that align with the needs and concerns of community members. The goals and subsequent actions are found in the Ministerial Values, Priorities, and Aspirations section of this report.



What We've Done

Co-Development with Canada and Métis Nation

From 2017-2024, the Ministry worked together with MNC and Métis Governments to advance Métis climate priorities at federal tables. The Goose Moon Table on Climate Change, originally known as the Canada Joint Table on Climate Change, first convened in 2017 following the 2016 Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change. In May 2022, it was restructured with a focus on true co-development, comprehensive engagement, and collaboration with the Federal government. Membership included representatives from the Métis Nation's National Environment Technical Committee, partners like Indigenous Clean Energy (ICE), and various program and policy teams from Federal departments such as ECCC, Public Safety Canada, Infrastructure Canada, and CIRNAC. The Goose Moon Table on Climate Change led to the creation of the Métis Nation Climate Change Strategy, the Métis Nation Climate Leadership Agenda, Indigenous Climate Leadership, Métis Adaptation Priorities, plus other climate related programs and policies.

Stewardship and Nature Based Climate Solutions

Until 2031, MNBC will partner with NRCan under the '**2 Billion Trees**' program to plant over three million trees through the Ministry's '*Millions of Trees*' project. The key objectives and operational priorities of this project are:

- ∞ **Métis Mass Planting** of over three million trees focusing on reforestation of public lands affected by wildfires plus training and employment opportunities for Métis citizens, while promoting biodiversity and forest resilience.
- ∞ **Métis Community Planting** throughout BC to plant thousands of trees in urban areas, fostering community involvement and ownership.
- ∞ **Métis Capacity Building, Education and Training** to develop expertise in tree planting, enhancing staff and citizen knowledge related to sustainable forestry management and practices.



Energy Transition and Renewables

The 2024 year saw the signing of a collective agreement for ***Sîpihkisôwin (Resilience): Métis Climate Action in British Columbia***, which provides funding for the creation of a low carbon/energy efficiency program for citizens. The program deployment is set for Fall 2025 and is expected to end in 2030.

In efforts to build low carbon capacity and knowledge within the Ministry, four staff members attended training offered by ICE to learn about Indigenous-led low carbon and energy efficient projects. The training included strategic alignment with Métis energy needs and federal targets, understanding finance complexities, project management, and monitoring/evaluation practices. Ministry staff used this training to begin project planning for *Sîpihkisôwin*.

Emergency Management

In 2022, BC's Interior Regional Health Authority supported nine Métis Chartered Communities with small grants for their Heat Alert Response System (HARS) project, and in 2023, they extended this support to 11 Communities. This region frequently experiences wildfires and extreme heat events, necessitating such initiatives.

On a provincial level, the Ministry received funding from EMCR to review multiple drafts of BC's modernized ***Emergency and Disaster Management Act*** (EDMA), which became law in November 2023. The new legislation demands Indigenous consultation through the implementation of the UN Sendai Framework's four pillars: mitigation, preparation, response and recovery. The Ministry also continues to work closely with EMCR to improve emergency planning, recovery, and response efforts.

Throughout the years, the Ministry has continued to provide up-to-date emergency resources to citizens. During National Emergency Preparedness Week (May 1-7, 2022), the Ministry organized various preparedness activities. In July 2023, the Ministry also hosted an Emergency Preparedness Webinar with Health Emergency Management BC (HEMBC), Northern and Interior Regional Health Authorities, and MNBC's Ministry of Health and Wellness. In October 2023, an Earthquake Preparedness Webinar and promotion of the National Earthquake Early Warning system was presented in partnership with EMCR and NRCan.

In 2023, the Ministry distributed 200 72-hour emergency preparedness kits to Métis households in BC. The Ministry was also able to send out 222 72-hour emergency preparedness kits in 2024. Additionally, during the wildfires in May and June of 2023, emergency grants were provided to five Métis chartered communities, totaling over 665 Métis citizens supported during evacuations.

Building on the **Emergency Support Framework Recommendation**, the Ministry collaborated with MNBC's Communications team to enhance the emergency information on the MNBC website. During major emergencies and evacuations, a banner now appears across the MNBC homepage directing people to the **Emergency Information page**. In June 2023, MNBC's Staff-Level Emergency Preparedness Working Group was also implemented to improve cross-ministry communication and coordination.

In 2023, at the Crown-Métis Nation Summit, Métis Nation Leaders and federal Cabinet Ministers agreed to add Emergency Management, Preparedness, and Response to the **Permanent Bilateral Mechanism** Standing Agenda and to explore the establishment of an Emergency Management, Preparedness, and Response

Sub-Accord. MNBC was an active member of Métis Nation Working Group on Emergency Management, Preparedness, and Response to the Permanent Bilateral Mechanism Standing Agenda and Workplan through 2024.

MNBC staff and citizens participated in the Métis Nation Ignite Project, led by MNC in 2023/24. This project, in partnership with NRCan, focused on emergency management, specifically wildfires. In February 2024, MNC invited Métis Governments and Métis from BC with professional experience in emergency management to traditional Treaty 7 territory in Banff, Alberta for a week of training and strategic planning. This also included participation in **Incident Command Systems** training.

In the fall of 2023, MNBC joined the Disaster and Climate Equity Advisory Group (DCEAG). In April 2023, the Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC BC) was provided with a three-year grant by the BC Climate Action Secretariat and the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness to support their province-wide climate risk and resilience assessment. The scope of this work involves complementary, arm's length knowledge development and community engagement that focuses on learning from communities and populations in BC who are disproportionately affected by climate risk and disaster. This work aims to support knowledge sharing and capacity building relevant to distinct equity deserving groups across BC.

From Spring to Fall 2024, the Ministry hosted monthly **webinars on emergency preparedness** for citizens in collaboration with BC's EMCR. Topics included flood events, extreme heat, mental health and climate change, droughts and water scarcity, DIY air filters, earthquakes, and career pathways in emergency management. These

webinars brought climate experts together with community to enhance citizen's knowledge and readiness for emergencies, fulfilling Goal 4 of the MNBC strategic priority *"to advocate and support greater emergency preparedness for communities."* In 2024, there were more than 650 registrants. The webinar series has continued into 2025.

In the summer of 2024, emergency management efforts continued to ramp up. The Ministry met with BC's Ministries EMCR and Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) to discuss improving communications with the province during emergencies and integrating cultural safety mechanisms into the regulations of the Emergency and Disaster Management Act and Emergency Support Services.

The Ministry worked collaboratively with MNBC's Ministry of Health and Wellness and Community Engagement Department to create a streamlined internal communication pathway during emergencies to effectively address citizen and community needs. In October 2024, the new MNBC internal emergency communication pathway was approved by MNBC Senior Leadership.

In September 2024, the Ministry received funds from Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), through the Canadian Coast Guard, for marine emergency response training and capacity. With these funds, the Ministry was able to help fund the role of the Emergency and Climate Change Resiliency Manager.

Food Security and Health

MNBC and Métis citizens in BC recognize food security as a priority need in Métis communities and a contributing factor in Métis health and well-being. The Ministry is working to expand food security programming and capacity building for Métis citizens and Métis Chartered Communities.

Food security has been a long-term priority for Métis communities as many Métis households experience food insecurity. In 2021, as an effort to provide Métis people with food security, MNBC created the **Home Garden Program** with funds provided for the COVID-19 pandemic response. In its original form, the program provided vegetables, fruits and flower seeds, as well as a small grant to Métis households for the purchase of equipment such as soil and planters. Since then, the program

Figure 6: MNBC's Home Garden Program



has evolved and continues to exceed demand and provides skills and knowledge to Métis households. The Ministry also provides a gardening newsletter for program participants as a channel of knowledge translation and skill growth.

As climate change alters weather patterns, wildlife migration routes, and ecosystem dynamics, many Métis harvesters are facing unprecedented challenges to their traditional hunting and gathering practices. Cultural practices are being altered, and economic implications impact Métis harvesters as hunting and fishing become more resource intensive. In 2021, MNBC supported harvesters by offering small grants to cover the cost of fuel, equipment, and other items, to reduce some of these financial burdens. The Ministry has a long history of engagement

with community members and the **British Columbia Métis Assembly of Natural Resources** (BCMANR). The Ministry continues to engage with and uplift Métis harvesters as knowledge holders who understand the intimate impacts of climate change on the land and Métis culture.

Due to the increased need from Canadians for affordable, fresh, and local foods, food security funding and resources are limited. The Ministry continues to engage Métis on food needs and seek sustainable, long-term funding for food security programming such as the Home Garden Program. Prioritizing food security for Métis in BC will have lasting effects in areas of environmental protection, emergency preparedness, cultural connection, physical and mental health, and more.



BCMANR
British Columbia Métis Assembly
of Natural Resources ∞

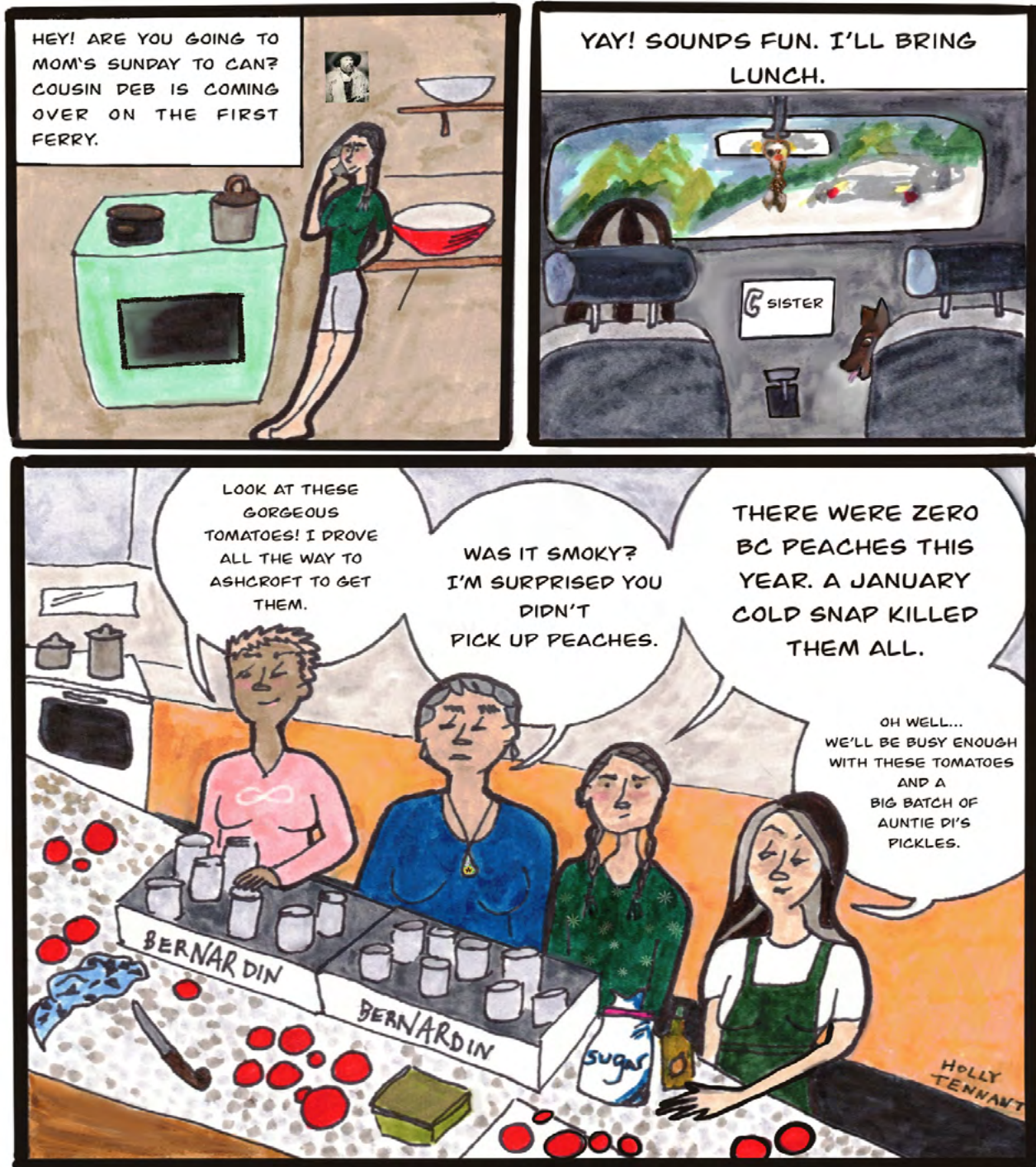


BCMANR

"BCMANR" means the British Columbia Métis Assembly of Natural Resources which is a non-political committee, made up of eight non-political regional Captains of the Hunt, that manages natural resources on behalf of the MNBC.

BCMANR is, in principle, based on the success of the Métis people in the 1700-1800s. The "Buffalo Assembly" and the "Laws of the Prairies" were established by the "community" way of life. These communal commitments ensured the survival of the Métis people during tough times. The basic principles include no "individual" way of thinking, and "that strength was generated from the collective group". These principles were the basis of the historic Métis culture, and the present-day infrastructure and principles honours the past.

Figure 7: 'Smoke and Peaches'
 BCMANR, Region 2 Captain, Holly Tennant



Canada's Changing Climate Report (2nd Edition), expected to be released in 2026, will feature artwork from BCMANR Region 2 Captain Holly Tennant. Holly's artwork speaks to changes in Métis cultural knowledge due to climate change, providing an impactful illustration of temporally compounding climate impacts on food, where a close succession of climate events has detrimental impacts on both food security and culture

Sustainable Jobs and Clean Energy

The Ministry has begun relationship building with BC's Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions. Through these conversations, the Ministry is working to establish opportunities and pathways into BC's energy sector for Métis to participate in clean energy solutions and sustainability. The province and BC Hydro are looking to boost clean power production, with calls for power projected to occur until at least 2040. Indigenous-led clean energy projects will be part of addressing and answering calls for power.

Building Capacity

Through funding from external and federal partners, the Ministry was able to increase internal capacity through the hiring of four new positions including an Emergency and Climate Resiliency Manager, a Low Carbon Manager, and two Environment Policy Analysts. These individuals continue to support the Ministry by providing programming and legislative feedback to federal and provincial partners to ensure Métis in BC are supported in areas of climate change, nature, and food security.

To continue increasing capacity and the good work, **MNBC is committed to co-developing initiatives, programs, and policies through Nation-to Nation, Government-to-Government relationships.** These respectful relationships allow governments to meet common climate goals while simultaneously address Métis specific needs in British Columbia.

PARTNERSHIPS

*To move the Ministry's work forward, partnerships are necessary. This includes partnerships at federal, provincial, regional, and local levels, as well as within MNBC. Federally, the Ministry has established good working relationships with departments such as ECCC, CIRNAC, and NRCan. Provincially, the Ministry is working to establish better relationships with the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food, BC Ministry of Forests, and other climate-related ministries. Due to the publication of the **BC Distinctions-Based Approach Primer** in 2023, relations with the province are being redefined. However, the Ministry does maintain a good working relationship with the BC Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, and BC Ministry of Health's Climate Resilience Unit.*

*In April 2025, MNBC signed a **cooperation agreement** with Métis Nation Saskatchewan (MN-S) which means, "both MN-S and MNBC have agreed to work in a government-to-government relationship to promote the respect and observance of all Métis rights, including joint advocacy with the Government of Canada, where it is identified as mutually beneficial." The Ministry has a good working relationship with the MN-S Environment team and currently meets monthly with federal government partners like ECCC to move forward the shared climate priorities of Métis across the two provinces.*

The work of the Ministry is interconnected with many other ministries at MNBC, including but not limited to Health and Wellness; Housing and Homelessness; Economic Development, Partnerships and Tourism; Finance; STEPS; Youth; and Sport and Active Living. The Ministry is actively creating relationships so that the work at MNBC is not redundant and encompasses Métis social determinants of health.

The work on climate change requires the reciprocal relationship between all partners, respecting a distinctions-based approach, and respect for nation-to-nation, government-to-government relationships based on the Métis Co-Development Principles.



CO-DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES

To advance the Nation-to-Nation, Government-to-Government relationship based on the respect and recognition of rights, the Principles of Co-Development work to redress the legacy of colonialism and racism experienced by Métis, whether present in legislation, policy, or practices.

The Co-Development Principles formalize a co-development process between Métis Governments and Canada for legislative, regulatory, and administrative matters. These Principles provide clarity on the operational elements needed to ensure full and effective Métis participation.

Areas addressed:

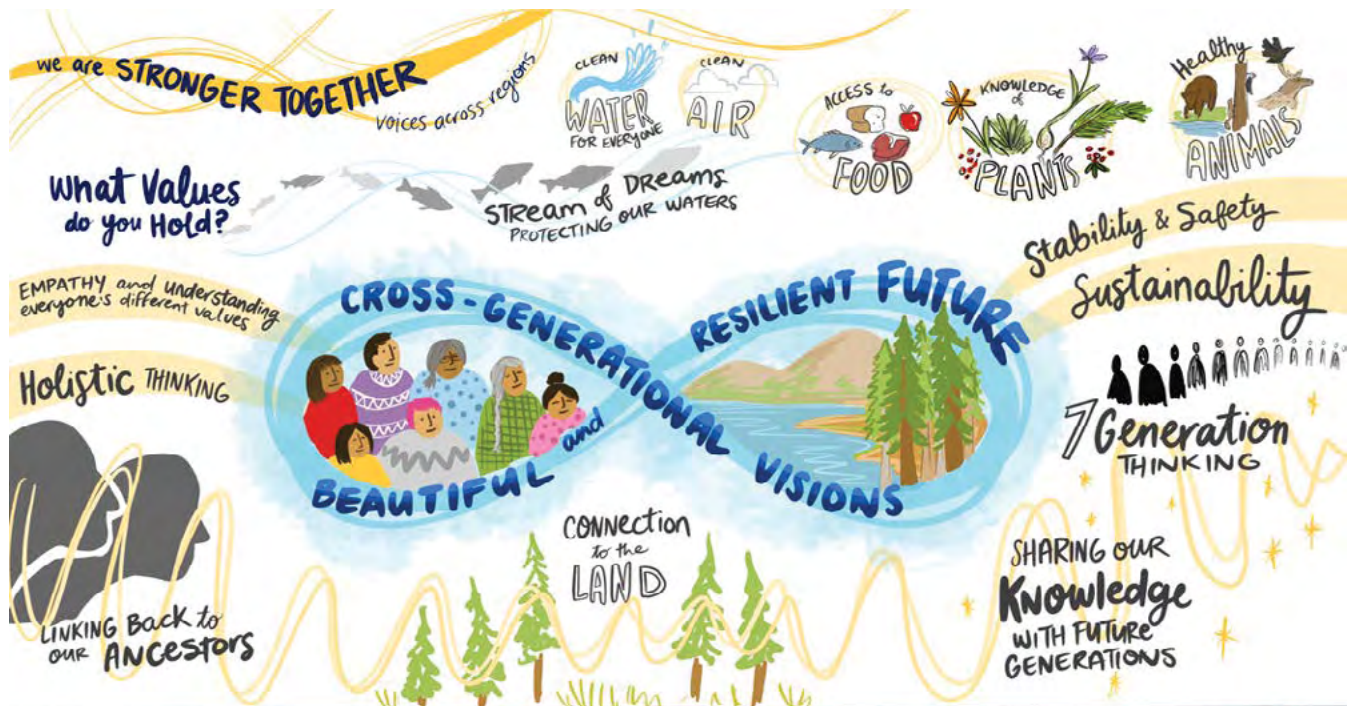
- *The co-development of legislative or administrative measures that may affect Métis.*
- *The importance of Nation-to-Nation, Government-to-Government processes with the Métis Governments.*
- *The respect for self-government and Métis governments' decision-making and approval processes and timelines.*
- *The notion of co-development being included in the substantive and procedural aspects of the traditional legislation and policy development cycle.*
- *Co-development processes and their accommodation of constitutional imperatives, such as parliamentary privilege and cabinet confidence, in a way that does not generally, disproportionately, or unduly limit Indigenous partnership.*
- *The importance of distinctions-based approaches to co-development processes.*
- *The resourcing of co-development processes to ensure the capacity of Métis Governments and their ability to appropriately represent their citizens.*

Where We Want to Go

The Ministry envisions a world where Métis and the environment thrive, where human and ecological systems are healthy and self-reliant. We imagine Métis as self-governing people; as people who draw upon Métis ways of knowing and being to contribute to local environments and food systems. We want Métis to feel prepared to

help themselves, their families and communities in climate emergencies. It is this vision that drives forward the work of the Ministry.

We are guided by the past and plan with seven generations in mind, for those not yet born.



Métis Nation BC: Cross-generational Visions of a Beautiful & Resilient Future

Graphic recording
Tanya Gadsby

fuselight
creative

Figure 8: Drawing from the Métis Nation BC Climate Preparedness Workshop Series, 2021

Photo Credit: Leona Shaw



Figure 9: Drawing from the Métis Nation BC Climate Preparedness Workshop Series, 2021



Ministerial Values, Priorities, and Actions

VALUES

The Ministry's work is guided through a climate change adaptation and mitigation lens, with a wholistic approach that recognizes the interconnectedness of ecosystems, environment, food, and culture. With this understanding, the Ministry strives to connect Métis with environmental/cultural knowledge including the diverse perspectives of various groups (e.g., youth, Elders, 2SLGBTQIAA+). This includes "keeping culture alive," the mission of knowledge translation and connecting Elders to families and youth.

PRIORITIES

Based on these guiding values, the Ministry created priorities and actions that are rooted in Métis perspectives. The priorities are sorted into five buckets: **Nature Stewardship, Renewable Energy, Emergency Management, Health and Food, and Sustainable Jobs and Prosperity.**

ACTIONS

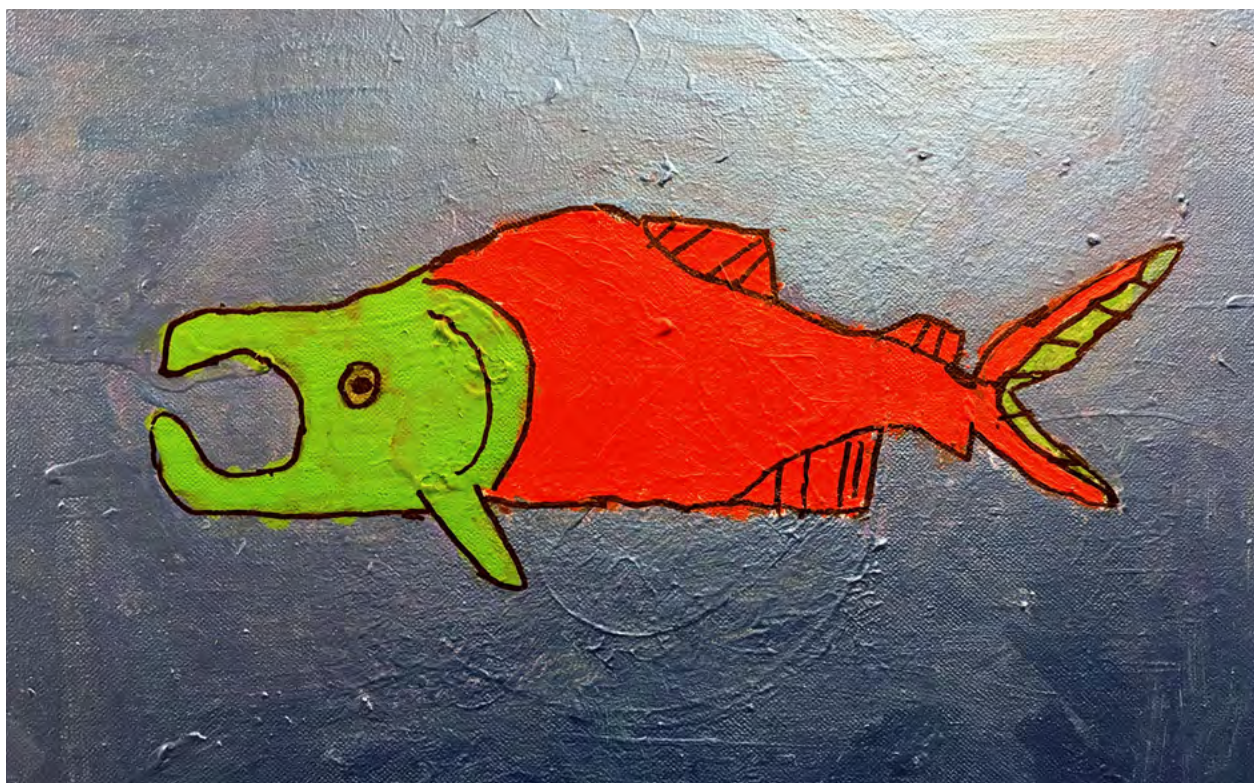
For these five priorities, there are three main actions that were identified by Métis in BC and MNBC staff, including **Building Resiliency** for Métis individuals and communities, **Building Capacity** for MNBC staff and Métis communities,

and **Relationship Building** and advocacy for Métis climate needs. Our actions work to ensure that the [*United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*](#) (UNDRIP) and the [*Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*](#) (DRIPA) are followed by all levels of government.

Current Actions explain what the Ministry is currently working on, while **Aspirational Actions** reflect community feedback and may be bounded by funding and resources. The Current and Aspirational Actions listed below align with [*MNBC's Strategic Plan*](#) (see [Appendix A](#)). Specific MNBC's strategic goals tied to ministerial actions include:

- ∞ [Goal 3: Pursue Socio-Economic Reconciliation](#), including supporting "initiatives that address the social determinants of health and promote wholistic well-being for Métis individuals and communities."
 - ∞ **"Promote and support food sovereignty."**
- ∞ [Goal 4: Support Métis Chartered Communities](#), empowering and engaging Métis Chartered Communities by strengthening agreements, increasing governance capacity, and providing greater opportunities through better communication, strategic partnerships, programs, and services.

Figure 10: "Sockeye Salmon"
Evan Beattie



- ∞ **"Continue to develop and implement programs and initiatives to address the unique needs and aspirations of Métis communities in British Columbia."**
- ∞ **"Continue to advocate and support greater emergency preparedness for communities with increasing impacts of climate change."**
- ∞ Goal 5: Generate core capacity, infrastructure and economic development. This includes the priority **"to pursuing "green" options to safeguard the environment"**, and training Métis in these new technologies/concepts.
- ∞ Goal 6: Develop and restore respective respectful relationships and partnerships. Beyond establishing positive relationships with

First Nations, governments, non-profits, and other organizations, etc., the Ministry understands that a respectful relationship needs to be nurtured between Métis and the environment.

Due to the broadness with which climate change covers, there will be some overlap between priorities and actions. One important action across all priorities is to continue to meaningfully cooperate, collaborate, and co-develop with CIRNAC, ECCC to advance the Indigenous Climate Leadership work, as well as continuing the partnership with NRCan, to fulfill UNDA Action 46 and honour distinctions-based solutions. The Ministry acknowledges that this work cannot be done through silos, but through an intersectoral and wholistic approach with partners.



Priority 1: Nature Stewardship

BUILDING RESILIENCY THROUGH NATURE STEWARDSHIP



Current Actions

- ∞ Advocating for more programs to help connect Métis citizens to the natural environment in British Columbia.
- ∞ Promoting Citizen Science initiatives through accessible data sharing apps such as iNaturalist.
- ∞ Educating and monitoring of pollinator species and species-at-risk (SAR).
- ∞ Managing and processing harvester cards and conducting an annual harvester survey for documenting and monitoring Métis land use and the effects of climate change in BC.¹⁰
- ∞ Guardians/Species Monitoring Program which connects Métis Youth and Knowledge holders and identifying culturally relevant species to Métis in BC.
- ∞ Empowering Métis youth and young adults in climate action through the Eco Collective and Eco Allowance initiative with ***MNBC's Ministry of Youth***.
- ∞ Educating Métis on urban parks, ecological corridors, and sharing volunteer opportunities.
- ∞ Research, development and approval of an MNBC-specific ILABC Recommendation Report.

Aspirational Actions

- ∞ Expansion of Métis-led monitoring programs for nature in BC, including but not limited to fauna, flora, water, air, fungi and soil
- ∞ Update geospatial mapping and analyses of Métis harvesting sites and other datasets to identify areas experiencing the greatest impacts of climate change.
- ∞ Lead invasive species awareness and removal initiatives with Métis citizens and Métis Chartered Communities.
- ∞ Support Métis protection of ecosystems by fostering citizens' connection to culture and cultivate stronger relationships with the land.
- ∞ Increase educational opportunities to support traditional Métis stewardship and harvesting practices for Métis in BC.
- ∞ Plan and implement an MNBC ILABC site in BC.
- ∞ Pursue ecological restoration projects across BC.

¹⁰ This work is done in partnership with the British Columbia Métis Assembly of Natural Resources (BCMNR).



BUILDING CAPACITY THROUGH NATURE STEWARDSHIP

Current Actions

- ∞ In collaboration with MNBC's Ministry of Skills, Training, Employment and Post-Secondary (STEPS), encouraging Métis people to pursue education and careers in environmental and related studies.
- ∞ Training and employment of Métis citizens in tree planting and monitoring in partnership with MNBC's STEPS ministry and external planting partners.
- ∞ Supporting BCMANR growth and development, ensuring BCMANR can contribute to their purpose and priorities in a sustainable and meaningful way, including succession planning, conservation, training, knowledge sharing, and harvesting advocacy.
- ∞ Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas Planning Advanced Certificate Program.

- ∞ Hiring of Ministry staff to support nature and climate-related initiatives.
- ∞ Hiring a 'Millions of Trees' Manager for MNBC's '2 Billion Trees' project.

Aspirational Actions

- ∞ Train MNBC staff and citizens in tree and plant seed collection, processing, and distribution.
- ∞ Support community-based stewardship by boosting local, Métis community capacity to support nature-based programs.
- ∞ Foster learning opportunities for citizens with BCMANR Captains.
- ∞ Hire a project lead for nature-based conservation and restoration projects, and staff to support citizen science and direct involvement programming.

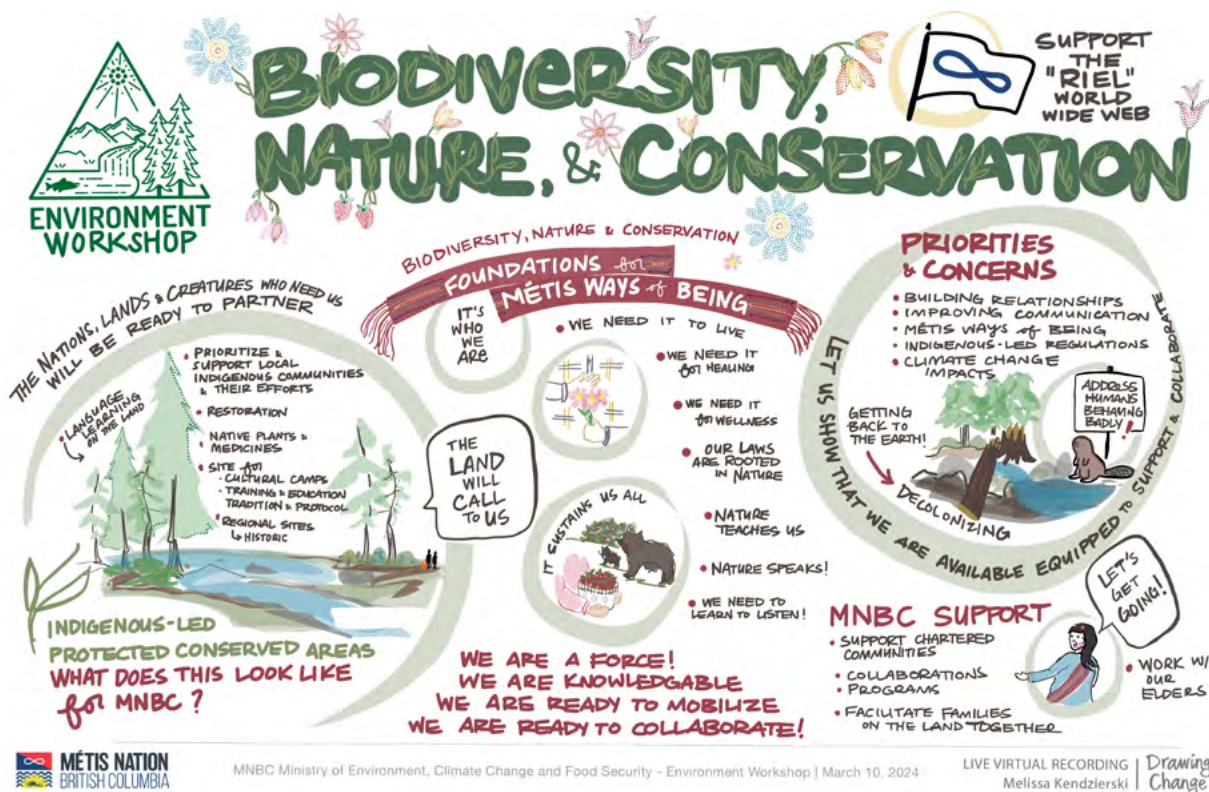


Figure 11: MNBC Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, and Food Security 'Environment Workshop', March 10, 2024

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING THROUGH NATURE STEWARDSHIP

Current Actions

- Working in close collaboration with BCMANR as outlined in the MNBC-BCMANR MOU.
- Working with ECCC to continue MNBC's Guardians program, species-at-risk monitoring work, and research and monitoring of terrestrial cumulative effects on Métis in BC.
- Working with CIRNAC on climate monitoring projects.
- Working with federal and provincial governments to advocate on legislation, policy, and regulation relating to the environment and climate change.
- Working to include Indigenous science and Métis Traditional Knowledge into federal and provincial research and reports.
- Continuing collaboration with BCMANR on knowledge sharing initiatives including youth camps and community events.
- Improving MNBC cross-Ministerial connections to support nature-based programs.
- Working with NRCAN and BC's Ministry of Forests to support Canada's '2 Billion Trees' Initiative.
- Working with, and advocating to, Parks Canada on ecological corridors and urban parks on behalf of Métis communities.
- Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Canada's National Tree Seed Centre's Indigenous Seed Collection Program.



Aspirational Actions

- ∞ Facilitate culture camps focused on traditional harvesting practices, hide tanning, and restoration of native species with BCMANR, Elders, and Knowledge Holders of Traditional Métis Knowledge.
- ∞ Enhance citizen science opportunities for monitoring changes on the land, culturally relevant species, and species at risk with local conservation groups.
- ∞ Work with MNBC's Ministry of Culture, Heritage, and Language to ensure protection and prosperity of Métis knowledge in environmental work and stewardship.
- ∞ Build stronger relationships to the natural environment for Métis citizens.
- ∞ Continue relationship building with NRCan and ECCC to support Métis-specific nature programming.
- ∞ Establish relationships and partnerships with First Nations whose territory resides within a future ILABC, ensuring First Nation input is considered thoughtfully and prioritized.
- ∞ Work with First Nations to foster relationships and co-existence in shared spaces, furthering community-based stewardship practices and programs.
- ∞ Partner with Canada to help achieve global diversity targets through ILABCs or Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECMs).
- ∞ Continue relationship building with NRCan to support Métis-specific nature programming.



Priority 2: Renewable Energy

BUILDING RESILIENCY THROUGH RENEWABLE ENERGY

Current Actions

- ∞ Delivery of MNBC's low carbon program, *Sipihkisôwin (Resilience): Métis Climate Action in British Columbia*, to provide energy transition and efficiencies for citizens' homes.
- ∞ Understanding and addressing the energy needs of Métis citizens via program development, performance assessment, and citizen feedback.
- ∞ Improving the energy performance of housing in Métis communities through Canada's Greener Homes Affordability Program for Métis.
- ∞ Working with Clean BC, BC Hydro, and Fortis BC to fund the transition of MNBC properties and citizens' homes to renewable energy sources and improved efficiency.

Aspirational Actions

- ∞ Create accessible and comprehensive pathways for MNBC citizens to access provincial and federal low carbon/energy efficient technology rebates.
- ∞ Extend the *Sipihkisôwin* program beyond 2029.
- ∞ Install and/or maintain heating and cooling systems in Elders and seniors' homes, as well as Métis gathering spaces. Increase Métis citizens' energy literacy through educational opportunities.
- ∞ Develop and conduct a Phase 1 Emissions Baseline Assessment of MNBC's annual greenhouse gas emissions.
- ∞ Create a Phase 2 Decarbonization Action Plan to strategically reduce emissions for MNBC operations and properties.
- ∞ Craft policy to ensure that MNBC-owned properties receive sufficient investments to make them 'solar ready' during new builds and retrofits.
- ∞ Identification of MNBC buildings for renewable energy and efficiency investments.
- ∞ Create an MNBC Community Energy Plan (CEP) to guide action and transition the nation toward renewables.



BUILDING CAPACITY THROUGH RENEWABLE ENERGY



Current Actions

- ∞ Ministry staff members continue to receive training in project management and clean energy development, plus networking opportunities.
- ∞ Hiring of an additional Low Carbon Energy position, the primary liaison between Métis citizens and the *Sîpihkisôwin* Program.
- ∞ Ministry staff are currently receiving ICE's 20/20 Catalysts Program training, an intensive program to propel Indigenous folks to become clean energy leaders.
- ∞ Continuing to collaborate with MNBC Ministry of Housing staff on low carbon energy and efficiency programming.
- ∞ Continuing monthly MN-S and MNBC meetings to develop staff and glean lessons from MN-S cross-ministry low carbon programs.
- ∞ Continuing regular cross-ministry coordination and program meetings between MNBC Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, and Food Security and Ministry of Housing and Homelessness staff.

Aspirational Actions

- ∞ Train MNBC citizens in the low carbon/energy efficient industry – support Métis experts in new technologies and evaluation programs.
- ∞ Create a network of certified Métis energy contractors.
- ∞ Support citizens in applying for and navigating the many different renewable energy and efficiency rebate and grant programs.
- ∞ Leverage MNBC's centralization and de-siloing work to build cross-ministry capacity and efficiently create an emissions baseline study.
- ∞ Cross-ministry training and development for MNBC Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, and Food Security and Ministry of Housing and Homelessness staff.

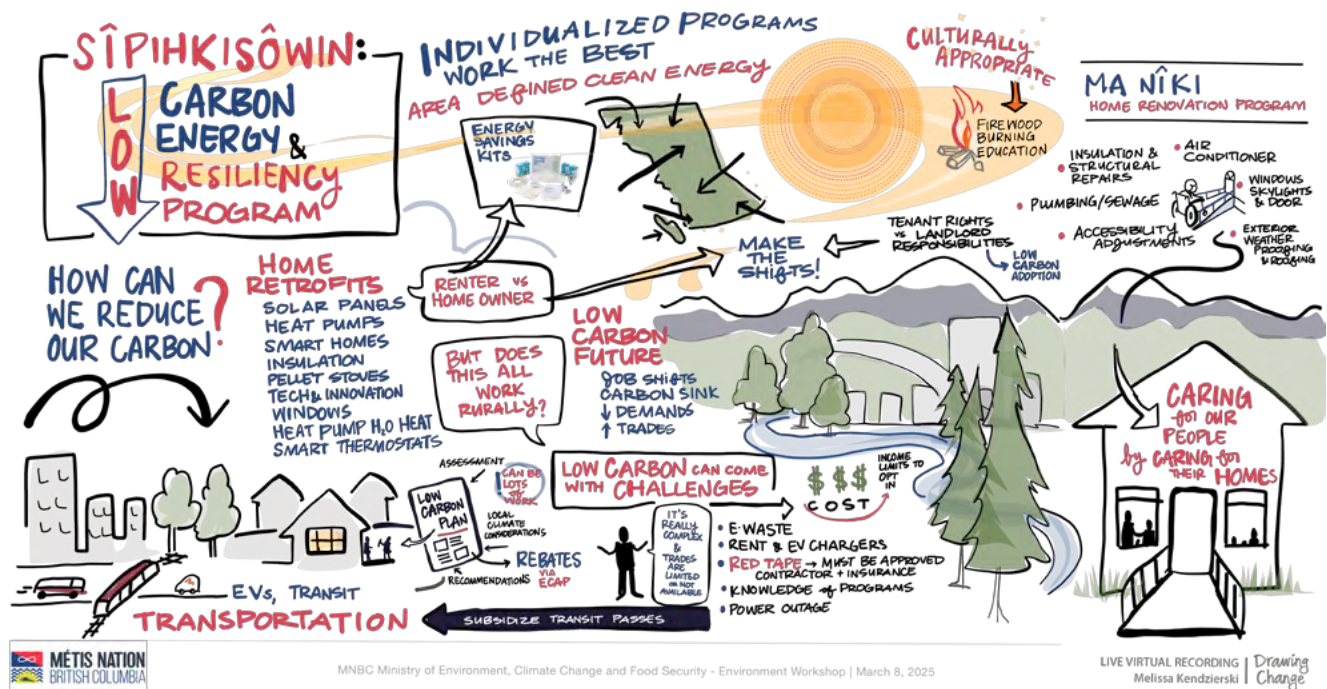


Figure 12: MNBC Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, and Food Security Environment Workshop, March 9, 2025

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING THROUGH RENEWABLE ENERGY

Current Actions

- ∞ Working with MNBC's Ministry of Housing and Homelessness to ensure energy efficient programming is aligned and complementary between ministries.
- ∞ Partnering with MNBC's Ministry of Housing and Homelessness for energy transitions and retrofits to citizens' homes.
- ∞ Working with Fortis BC and BC Hydro to improve energy efficient technology literacy among MNBC staff and citizens.
- ∞ Continuing to build positive relationships with our federal partners in providing energy transitions and improvements for Métis in BC.
- ∞ Partnering with MNBC's Ministry of Housing and Homelessness and Departments of Operations & Finance to support energy transitions and efficiencies for MNBC buildings and operations.
- ∞ Reviewing federal and provincial climate strategies, plans, and legislation to help align MNBC's actions with government partners.
- ∞ Membership with the Canadian Renewable Energy Association (CanREA) to help participate in the renewable energy sector.
- ∞ Partnering with ICE to network and build MNBC's capacity to develop renewable energy projects.
- ∞ Reviewing CleanBC, BC's Climate Action Plan, to evaluate and update BC's current climate targets, and recommend policies, programs and initiatives to achieve significant emissions reductions.



Aspirational Actions

- ∞ Advocacy with BC Housing and the BC Ministry of Housing for Métis renters and homeowners to increase adoption of energy efficiency projects in their homes.
- ∞ Build strategic relationships with administrators of federal and provincial grant and rebate programs to reduce costs and administrative burdens related to citizen retrofits.
- ∞ Cross-ministry collaboration with MNBC's Ministry of Housing and Homelessness and Department of Finance to identify funding and investment partners.
- ∞ Work with BC's Ministry of Clean Energy Solutions in efforts to respond to BC's full transition to clean electricity by 2050.
- ∞ Work with the BC Government's Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions to identify partnership opportunities that will help MNBC and BC shift to net zero.
- ∞ Participate in programming that helps Canada's **2050 Net Zero Carbon** targets.
- ∞ Relationship building through MNBC participation in future iterations of the British Columbia Regional Energy and Resource Table, in partnership with Canada, BC, and the First Nations Leadership Council.

ADVOCATING FOR ACTION

*Métis-specific recommendations from BC's Office of the Ombudsperson's Special Report No. 54, **'Fairness in a changing climate: Ensuring disaster supports are accessible, equitable and adaptable'** states that BC's Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness should work with Métis Nation British Columbia to:*

- *"...integrate cultural safety across the entire Emergency Support Services system, including developing and implementing a process for receiving meaningful and timely feedback about cultural safety in the delivery of Emergency Support Services." (R3)*
- *"...develop and implement...timely, accessible and culturally safe complaints process that can be used by people who are trying to access, or who have accessed, Emergency Support Services." (R10)*



Priority 3: Emergency Management

BUILDING RESILIENCY THROUGH EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Current Actions

- ∞ Advocating for, and providing more, emergency preparedness supports for Métis Chartered Communities and our MNBC Citizens.
- ∞ Continuing monthly seasonal readiness Emergency Preparedness Webinar series.
- ∞ Distributing a province-wide comprehensive Emergency Management Needs Assessment Survey to Métis citizens.
- ∞ Maintaining [*MNBC's Emergency Info Page*](#) with risk reduction information and resources, as well as culturally relevant Métis-specific resources.
- ∞ Improving communications and information sharing with citizens via an Emergency Info banner that appears on the [*MNBC homepage*](#), during evacuations, taking citizens directly to vital information with one-click.
- ∞ Expediting financial support to Métis Chartered Communities actively affected by evacuation orders.
- ∞ Supporting Métis Chartered Communities with resources for citizens to build emergency kits.

Aspirational Actions

- ∞ Conduct Emergency Preparedness/Risk Assessments and community emergency response plans for Métis Chartered Communities.
- ∞ Support creation of Métis individual/family response plans (e.g., [*Emergency Ready Plan*](#)).
- ∞ Continue the provision of 72-hour emergency kits to Métis individuals and communities most vulnerable to climate related emergencies.
- ∞ Continue to facilitate Métis citizens and communities on building their own 72-hour emergency kits by providing resources and materials when available.
- ∞ Create an Elder connection program to care for Elders, seniors, and people with disabilities during climate emergencies.
- ∞ Continue to provide community financial supports for climate related emergency evacuees.
- ∞ Support citizens and communities' wholistic well-being in case of emergencies through both MNBC-led and external disaster psychosocial and mental health supports.



BUILDING CAPACITY THROUGH EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



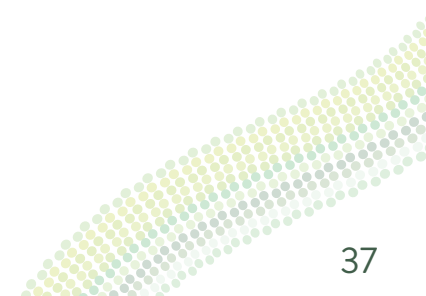
Current Actions

- ∞ Providing Métis citizens and MNBC staff opportunities for training in Emergency Preparedness, First Aid, and Marine Safety.
- ∞ Educating staff in Emergency Management, Operations, and Planning.
- ∞ Providing career mentorship opportunities for Métis to learn from Métis professionals working in emergency management.
- ∞ Continuing to review and act on recommendations from this priority paper, ***MNBC's Emergency Support Framework Phase 1: Research Recommendations***, MNBC's Emergency Management Needs Assessment Survey, ***Métis Nation Climate Change Strategy***, ***Métis Nation Climate Change and Health Vulnerability Assessment***, and the ***MNC Emergency Management Review***.
- ∞ Onboarding MNBC's inaugural Emergency & Climate Resiliency Manager.
- ∞ New partnership with Natural Resources Canada's Wildland Fire Resilience Program, ensuring emergency management capacity at MNBC until 2028.

- ∞ Participating in tabletop emergency preparedness exercises in partnership with Health Emergency Management BC and Regional Health Authorities.

Aspirational Actions

- ∞ Increase MNBC's capacity to mitigate, prepare, respond, and recover from climate-related emergencies through direct, sustainable, and long-term funding.
- ∞ Create directory of culturally safe Métis volunteers who are trained, qualified, and prepared to respond to climate-related emergencies and evacuations.
- ∞ Implement resources and training to check-in and care for Elders, seniors, and people with disabilities during emergencies and extreme weather events.
- ∞ Work with MNBC's Ministry of STEPS on promoting careers in Emergency Management.



RELATIONSHIP BUILDING THROUGH EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Current Actions

- ∞ Improving communication of emergency alerts, actions, and training opportunities with Métis citizens and Métis Chartered Communities.
- ∞ Vetting and updating of information on MNBC's Emergency Info Page by provincial partners such as EMCR, MIRR, and **PreparedBC**.
- ∞ Receiving regular feedback from hundreds of Métis citizens on emergency preparedness questions and concerns through the Emergency Preparedness Webinar Series.
- ∞ Continuing to work with federal, provincial, regional, municipal, and NGO partners to deliver knowledge and resources through the Emergency Preparedness Webinar Series.
- ∞ Improving response times, decision-making, and resource allocation through 'MNBC Cross-Ministry Emergency Communication' pathway.
- ∞ Improving communication and protocols with MNBC's community engagement team to better serve citizens and community during evacuations and emergencies.
- ∞ Engaging in coordination calls with EMCR and/or HEMBC to support evacuated Métis individuals.
- ∞ Advocating for MNBC's role in protecting Métis through BC's modernized **Emergency Management and Disaster Act** and its ensuing policy and regulations.
- ∞ Working with regional districts and other local authorities to integrate Métis citizens and communities in local emergency preparedness plans and communications.

- ∞ Continuing to work with BC's Regional Health Authorities on health emergency management activities outlined in joint work plans and Letters of Understanding.
- ∞ Attending the monthly Métis Nation – Saskatchewan and Métis Nation British Columbia Emergency Management Working Group to coordinate funding opportunities and share best practices.

Aspirational Actions

- ∞ MNBC advocacy of Métis-specific and culturally safe services and supports through BC Emergency Supports Services (ESS).
- ∞ Develop and implement an external partner(s) communication plan for climate emergencies.
- ∞ Enhance MNBC's integration within BC's Emergency Management Systems.
- ∞ Mitigate the effect of future climate hazards by building relationships with regional partners to ensure Métis' right of self-government is respected and Métis voices are included at emergency management planning tables.
- ∞ Prioritize connectivity for rural and remote communities.
- ∞ Work cooperatively with EMCR to integrate MNBC into BC's Common Operating Picture, a digital platform designed to provide a shared situational awareness for emergencies in British Columbia.

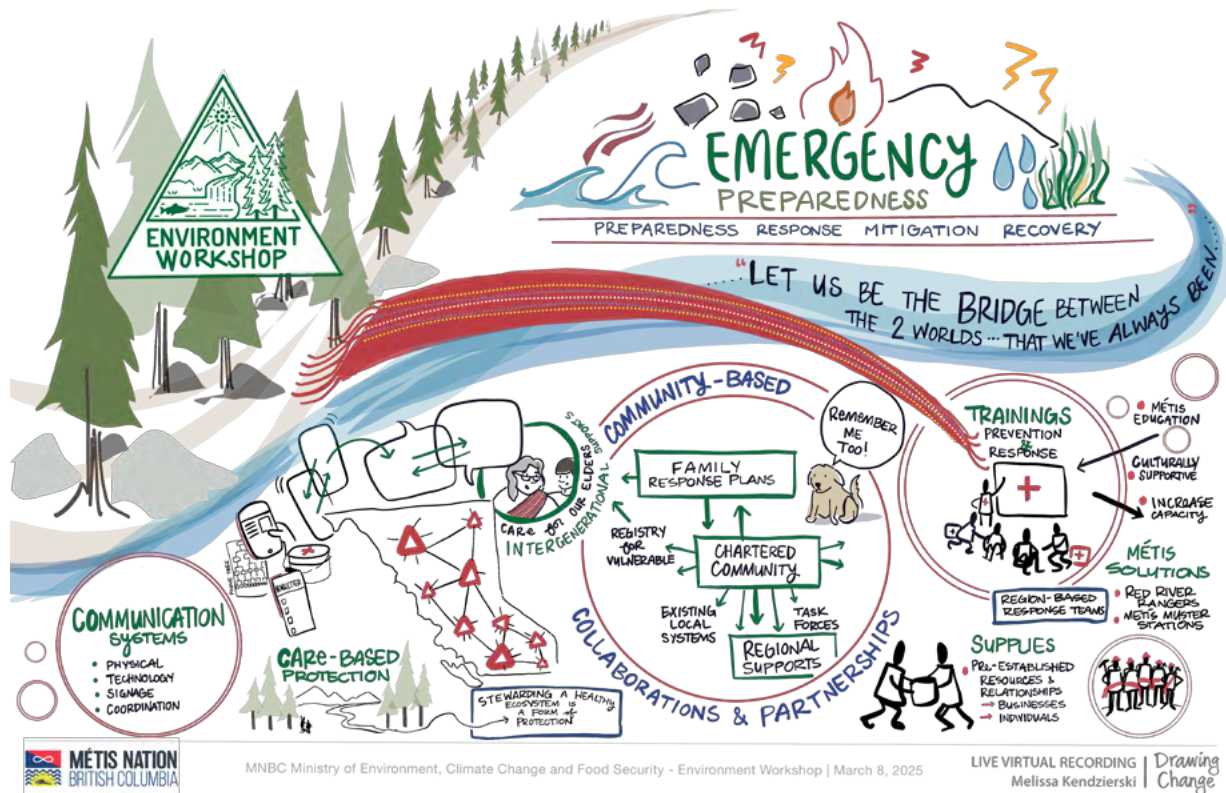


Figure 13: MNBC Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, and Food Security 'Environment Workshop', March 8, 2025

WORKING TOGETHER IN A GOOD WAY

MNBC participates in the following EM partnership tables, groups, and committees:

- Indigenous Agency Working Group
- Fraser Health Indigenous Emergency Preparedness Collaboration Table
- Island Health Collaborative Seasonal Readiness Partnership Table
- Health Emergency Management BC, De-Colonizing Emergency Management Advisory Circle
- BC Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Resilience - Disaster Risk Management Division
- MNBC Staff Emergency Preparedness Working Group (cross-ministry)
- MNBC representation on BC Health Effects of Anomalous Temperatures (BC HEAT) Coordinating Committee
- BC Centre for Disease Control-led Climate & Public Health Community of Practice
- Regular meetings between MNBC and BC Ministry of Health, Climate Resiliency Unit
- Métis Nation – Saskatchewan and Métis Nation British Columbia Emergency Management Working Group



Priority 4: Health & Food

BUILDING RESILIENCY THROUGH HEALTH & FOOD

Current Actions

- ∞ Advocating for greater resources for MNBC citizens to grow their own food.
- ∞ Continuation of the Home Garden Program, operating in its fifth year as of 2025.
- ∞ Providing food security funding for Métis communities in partnership with Interior and Fraser Regional Health Authorities.
- ∞ Partnering with Fraser Health on air quality monitoring.
- ∞ Using data from the harvester survey to gather insight into changes in wildlife populations, wild foods, and ecosystems due to climate change.
- ∞ Advocating for water security through consultation and advocacy on water-related legislation, policy, and regulation.
- ∞ Provide additional supports for Métis harvesters and food initiatives led by Métis Chartered Communities.
- ∞ Assess and address, where possible, climate change impacts on relevant food systems and food security facing the Métis Nation.
 - Develop a baseline understanding of how climate change is impacting food security and accessibility to traditional Métis foods, agriculture, food systems, and medicines.
 - Develop region-specific programming to minimize the impacts of climate change on food access and further build resilient traditional Métis foods systems.

Aspirational Actions

- ∞ Advocate for sustainable, predictable, flexible, and distinctions-based funding for MNBC to advance priorities related to health, food security, and climate change.
- ∞ Foster citizens' connection and relationship with the land and supporting culture and wholistic wellness through health and food initiatives.



BUILDING CAPACITY THROUGH HEALTH & FOOD

Current Actions

- ∞ Creation of a new Ministry of Food Security by MNBC's Board of Directors due to growing community interest and need.
- ∞ Existing staffing positions and gaps are being examined at a ministry-level to ensure wholistic programming and adequate capacity are met to address Métis food security needs.
- ∞ Networking and learning at *[The Summit on Mental Health and Climate Change](#)*.

Aspirational Actions

- ∞ Support internal capacity-building within the Métis Nation to better determine and meet the unique health and food needs of Métis communities.
- ∞ Provide increased educational opportunities for MNBC citizens to learn about increasing their own food self-sufficiency.
- ∞ Knowledge sharing with Métis communities on Métis/Indigenous food security practices.
- ∞ Support food security and agriculture by providing targeted training to Métis agriculturists, gardeners, and harvesters.
- ∞ Offer Psychological First Aid (PFA) training and share Métis-specific well-being activities to citizens.



RELATIONSHIP BUILDING THROUGH HEALTH & FOOD

Current Actions

- ∞ Working with MNBC's Ministry of Health and Wellness, Ministry of Sport and Active Living, and Ministry of Housing and Homelessness on shared health and food programs and priorities.
- ∞ Working with MNBC's Ministry of Health and Wellness as co-members of the ***Mental Health and Climate Change Alliance***, to support better health and well-being outcomes for citizens.
- ∞ Continue collaborating with BC Ministry of Health, BC Centre for Disease Control, BC Regional Health Authorities, Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity & Recreation Council (I-SPARC), and the Indigenous Climate Resiliency Forum.
- ∞ Continue working with MNBC's Ministry of Health and Wellness and BC's Regional Authorities on climate action knowledge sharing and ***Métis Health and Wellness Plans***.

Aspirational Actions

- ∞ Expand opportunities and outreach on food security education across other MNBC Ministries, including but not limited to Ministries of Education, Children and Families, Health and Wellness, and Elders.
- ∞ Collaborate with the Ministry of Housing and Homelessness and the Ministry of Education to identify development projects that could include access to community gardens for MNBC citizens.
- ∞ Work with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to improve Métis participation in federal food and agriculture programs.
- ∞ Cultivate a consistent working relationship with BC's Ministry of Agriculture and Food.
- ∞ Establish mechanisms for governments to find real, sustainable, and culturally appropriate solutions that address the root causes of food insecurity and promote food as medicine.
- ∞ Create working relationships with established food security organizations to bring knowledge and resources to Métis Chartered Communities.



Priority 5: Sustainable Jobs and Prosperity

BUILDING RESILIENCY THROUGH SUSTAINABLE JOBS & PROSPERITY

Current Actions

- ∞ Ensuring a Métis environmental voice is brought forward on all relevant projects related to climate change and conservation.
- ∞ Conducting research to assess the current state, opportunities, and barriers to being active contributors to the clean economy in a way that aligns with MNBC's values.
- ∞ Advocating for distinctions-based Métis representation, consultation, and economic participation.
- ∞ Advocating for Métis resiliency through implementation of an Indigenous-led '*Just Transition*'¹¹ to a clean growth economy.
- ∞ Working collaboratively across MNBC departments and ministries to identify opportunities for economic participation by MNBC, Métis businesses, communities, and citizens in clean growth projects in the areas of Equity, Procurement, and Employment.
- ∞ Creating a major project decision matrix to help MNBC cross-ministry staff make unified and cohesive recommendations to leadership.

Aspirational Actions

- ∞ Assess the current state of Métis employment, entrepreneurship, and businesses within the clean economy.
- ∞ Understand economic opportunities and barriers for supporting Métis workers and businesses to shift to a clean economy (e.g., market readiness, market access, etc.).
- ∞ Identify and implement low-risk, scalable clean growth projects that allow for early successes and learning for MNBC and Métis citizens and businesses.

¹¹ "The International Labour Organization (ILO) defines the concept of 'Just Transition' as: 'Greening the economy in a way that is as fair and inclusive as possible to everyone concerned, creating decent work opportunities and leaving no one behind' (*Métis Nation Climate Change Strategy* 2024; 46).



BUILDING CAPACITY THROUGH SUSTAINABLE JOBS & PROSPERITY



Current Actions

- ∞ Supporting, training and employing Métis citizens in the silviculture and forestry sector (i.e., planting and species monitoring).
- ∞ Disseminating opportunities for Métis to pursue work and/or education in climate-related careers.
- ∞ Hiring of new staff with expertise in clean energy to lead MNBC's '*Sîpihkisôwin*' project for energy transition of citizens' homes.
- ∞ Hiring of new staff with expertise in silviculture to lead MNBC's '*Millions of Trees*' mass planting project.
- ∞ Offer Métis-specific training, mentoring, and development to increase Métis involvement in the low-carbon economy.
- ∞ Empower and promote energy-transition job readiness as an opportunity for a new generation of Métis leaders to mitigate and combat the effects of climate change.
- ∞ Support and advocate for Métis entrepreneurs and businesses to participate in the low-carbon economy.
- ∞ Ensure MNBC and Métis businesses and entrepreneurs have low-cost, low-risk, and Canada-backed access to capital to increase Métis participation in the low-carbon economy, including developing sources of capital through Métis financial corporations.

Aspirational Actions

- ∞ Educate, engage and inspire Métis citizens and businesses on how they can be active contributors and beneficiaries of the clean economy.
- ∞ Financially support Métis citizens who want to advance or start their career in the green/low carbon sector and/or transition away from the fossil fuel industry.
- ∞ Incentivize and promote the hiring and training of Métis businesses and workers on major low-carbon projects and initiatives.
- ∞ Support the development and management of Métis business directories that advance the low-carbon economy and the Nation's climate priorities.

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING THROUGH SUSTAINABLE JOBS & PROSPERITY

Current Actions

- ∞ Working across MNBC ministries and departments, such as, Ministry of STEPS, Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of Housing and Homelessness, and Ministry of Rights, Research, and Consultation on shared clean growth priorities.
- ∞ Advocating to federal and provincial governmental partners to ensure Métis economic participation (Equity, Procurement, and Employment) in the clean growth economy and transition.
- ∞ Cross-ministry communication to identify potential clean growth projects that fulfill MNBC's values and socio-economic goals.
- ∞ Monthly working group meetings with Métis Nation – Saskatchewan to support and learn from each other as we move forward together with clean growth projects that support Métis prosperity.
- ∞ Building relationships with financial institutions, Crown corporations, energy producers, regulators, and First Nations to identify opportunities for Equity, Procurement, and Employment for Métis through clean growth projects in BC.

Aspirational Actions

- ∞ Build better internal systems to work in tandem with MNBC's Ministry of Economic Development and Finance Department to create opportunities related to clean growth for Métis in BC.
- ∞ Work with Métis Financial Corporation of BC on applicable clean growth initiatives.
- ∞ Work with federal partners to ensure inclusion of Métis in BC to participate in future clean projects approved through One Canadian Economy Legislation and federal Major Projects Office.
- ∞ Pursue "green" options to safeguard the environment in infrastructure development.
- ∞ Work with federal and provincial partners to implement, expand, and improve the **Canadian Sustainable Jobs Act** as it benefits and impacts Métis/Indigenous communities.
- ∞ Develop and expand partnerships to stimulate clean economic development and prosperity.
- ∞ Partner with industry and governments to support the hiring of Métis individuals and/or businesses related to the clean economy.
- ∞ Partner with tech and educational institutions to provide education, training, and support for Métis citizens to better access and take part in the low-carbon economy in a way that aligns with Métis values and culture.



Figure 14: "This Is Our Mother", Madeline Lucier



Conclusion

***“In order to know where you are going,
you need to know where you come from.”***

– MNBC MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT
AND CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSIE HOOPER

Métis communities are at the heart of the Ministry’s work, where community connections strengthen Métis resilience in a shifting climate. While the Ministry continues to rely on Métis for guidance, Métis lean on their culture and ancestral teachings to inform a good path forward.

It is the self-determination of Métis in BC and the need for greater preparedness that drives forward the Ministry’s work. The Ministry strives to protect and restore the environment from encroaching human behaviour and extreme climate events

by focusing on conservation, sustainability, biodiversity, food security, and emergency preparedness. Climate change solutions should provide a sustainable future for not just Métis people in British Columbia, but for all Canadians, and all our relations. We are committed to collaborating with partners to achieve and build a sustainable future for all.

Appendix A

MNBC Vision

Métis Nation British Columbia envisions a future where Métis people, communities and children thrive. We are connected to our rich Métis culture, heritage and languages; we achieve strong socio-economic outcomes; and our Métis rights as an Indigenous people are recognized.

MNBC Mission

As the Métis government in British Columbia, we represent Métis citizens and promote the rights, recognition, priorities and interests of all Métis in BC. We create opportunities for our people, communities, and children to flourish, and work to ensure access to a range of programs and services to bridge socioeconomic gaps and increase overall well-being for Métis in BC.

MNBC's Strategic Plan

Find Métis Nation British Columbia's 2023/24-2026/27 Strategic Plan, titled KÂ ISI NÂTAMA ÔTA ATI NÎKÂN (Our Way Forward), [here](#). The Ministry aligns all activities with the goals set out in the strategic plan

MNBC Cultural Values



Kweyes'kwât'sowin - Integrity: We hold integrity as a core value. We are honest with ourselves, our colleagues, our communities and our partners. We are reliable and follow through on our word.



Kisiwât'sowin - Kindness: We show and practice lateral kindness in our organization and to everyone with whom we interact on behalf of MNBC. We practice kaa-wichihitoyaahk: we take care of each other.



Ahtisihcikêwin - Innovation: We draw on the spirit of Métis innovation and bring forward our curiosity and creativity to problem solve and develop new solutions for our people.



Manâchitowin - Respect: we respect ourselves, others, and all Creation.



Atoskâtowin - Teamwork: We work together and actively seek opportunities to share information, collaborate on initiatives, and practice reciprocity for stronger outcomes. We embrace teamwork to achieve greater potential for success.



Tâpahtiyim'sowin - Humility: We show and practice cultural humility and cultural agility. We are open to new ideas and recognize the wisdom that surrounds us from others who carry experiences different than ours.



Sîpikisôwin - Resilience: We are resilient and do not fear challenges or setbacks but remain courageous and learn from each step of the journey. We channel the courage of our Métis Ancestors who faced adversity and remained resilient.